

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A file decryption apparatus that ~~stores the ciphertext and the encrypted file key generated by the file encryption apparatus of Claim 16, in association with each other, in a memory unit thereof, and~~ decrypts a [the] ciphertext, the file decryption apparatus comprising:

~~a key storage medium storing key information beforehand;~~

a memory unit for storing an encrypted key, a ciphertext, and an encrypted file key, the encrypted key being generated by encrypting key information stored in a portable key storage medium using a password, the encrypted file key being generated by encrypting a file key using the key information, and the ciphertext being generated by encrypting a plaintext using the file key;

a switch unit ~~switch means~~

(a) including a first key obtaining unit means for receiving operable to receive an input of a password and ~~decrypting~~ decrypt the encrypted key stored in the memory unit using the received password to generate key information, and a second key obtaining unit means for reading operable to read the key information from the key storage medium loaded in the file decryption apparatus, and

(b) is operable to obtain ~~obtaining~~ the key information by one of the first key obtaining unit means and the second key obtaining unit means; and

a decryption unit decryption means for decrypting operable to decrypt the encrypted file key using the obtained key information to generate a file key, and ~~decrypts~~ decrypt the ciphertext using the file key to generate a decrypted text.

18-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The file decryption apparatus of Claim 17, wherein ~~the file encryption apparatus further receives an input of a user identifier that identifies a user, and writes the user identifier in association with the encrypted key, to the memory unit, and~~

the memory unit further stores, in association with the encrypted key, a user identifier that identifies a user, and

the first key obtaining ~~unit means~~ further receives an input of the user identifier ~~from the user~~ and decrypts the encrypted key that is associated with the user identifier.

58. (Currently Amended) The file decryption apparatus of Claim 17, wherein ~~the file encryption apparatus further writes the key information and/or authentication information in association with the encrypted key, to the memory unit, and further writes the encrypted key, the key information, and/or authentication information in association with the ciphertext, to the memory unit,~~

the memory unit further stores, in association with the encrypted key, authentication information generated based on the key information, and

the first key obtaining ~~unit means~~ checks, using the authentication information, whether the encrypted key has been altered or not, when the encrypted key that is associated with the authentication information is decrypted, ~~and the decryption means checks, using the authentication information, whether the ciphertext has been altered or not, when the ciphertext that is associated with the authentication information is decrypted.~~

59. (Currently Amended) The file decryption apparatus of Claim 17, wherein ~~the file encryption apparatus writes the encrypted key to the memory unit that is a portable storage medium, and~~

the memory unit is a portable storage medium, and

the first key obtaining unit means decrypts the encrypted key that has been written to the memory unit that is the portable storage medium.

60. (Currently Amended) The file decryption apparatus of Claim 17, wherein ~~the file encryption apparatus further writes the encrypted key in association with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, to the memory unit, and~~

the memory unit further stores the encrypted key in association with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, and

the first key obtaining unit means decrypts the encrypted key that is associated with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key.

61. (New) The file decryption apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the memory unit further stores, in association with the ciphertext, authentication information generated based on the ciphertext, and the decryption unit checks, using the authentication information, whether the ciphertext has been altered or not, when the ciphertext that is associated with the authentication information is decrypted.

62. (New) A file management apparatus that encrypts a plaintext to generate a ciphertext, stores the ciphertext, and decrypts the ciphertext, the file management apparatus comprising:

a memory unit;

a registration unit operable to receive an input of a password, generating an encrypted key by encrypting key information, which is stored in a portable key storage medium, using the received password, and writing the generated encrypted key to the memory unit;

an encryption unit operable to generate a ciphertext by encrypting a plaintext using a file key, generate an encrypted file key by encrypting the file key using the key information stored in the key storage medium, and write the generated ciphertext and encrypted file key to the memory unit in association with each other;

a switch unit

(a) including a first key obtaining unit operable to receive an input of the password and decrypt the encrypted key in the memory unit using the received password to generate key information, and a second key obtaining unit operable to read the key information from the key storage medium loaded in the file management apparatus, and

(b) is operable to obtain the key information by one of the first key obtaining unit and the second key obtaining unit; and

a decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted file key using the obtained key information to generate a file key, and decrypt the ciphertext using the file key to generate a decrypted text.

63. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,

wherein the registration unit further receives an input of a user identifier that identifies a user, and writes the user identifier in association with the encrypted key, to the memory unit, and

the first key obtaining unit further receives an input of the user identifier and decrypts the encrypted key that is associated with the user identifier.

64. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,

wherein the registration unit further writes

authentication information, which is generated based on the key information, to the memory unit in association with the encrypted key,

the first key obtaining unit further checks, using the authentication information, whether the encrypted key has been altered or not, when the encrypted key that is associated with the authentication information is decrypted.

65. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,
wherein the encryption unit further writes authentication information, which is generated
based on the ciphertext, to the memory unit in association with the ciphertext,
the decryption unit further checks, using the authentication information, whether the
ciphertext has been altered or not, when the ciphertext that is associated with the
authentication information is decrypted.
66. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,
wherein the memory unit is a portable storage medium, the registration unit writes the
encrypted key to the memory unit being a portable storage medium, and
the first key obtaining unit decrypts the encrypted key in the memory unit being a
portable storage medium.
67. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62 further comprising
a deletion unit operable to delete the encrypted key that has been written to the memory
unit.
68. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62 further comprising
a deletion unit operable to delete the encrypted key that has been written to the memory
unit,
wherein the registration unit further receives an input of a new password from the user,
encrypts the key information using the new password to generate a new encrypted
key, and writes the generated new encrypted key to the memory unit.
69. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,
wherein the key storage medium stores new key information, instead of the key
information,
the registration unit receives the input of the password and decrypts the encrypted key
using the password to generate key information,

the encryption unit decrypts the encrypted file key using the key information to generate a file key, encrypts the file key using the new key information to generate a new encrypted file key, and writes the new encrypted file key over the encrypted file key in the memory unit, and

the registration unit encrypts the new key information using the password to generate a new encrypted key and writes the new encrypted key over the encrypted key in the memory unit.

70. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 69,
wherein the registration unit further receives an input of a user identifier that identifies a user,
the encryption unit further writes the user identifier in association with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, to the memory unit, and
the encryption unit retrieves the encrypted file key that is associated with the user identifier in the memory unit and generates a file key from the retrieved encrypted file key.
71. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 69,
wherein the encryption unit further writes encryption information in association with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, to the memory unit, the encryption information indicating that the plaintext has been encrypted, and
the encryption unit retrieves the encrypted file key that is associated with the encryption information in the memory unit, and generates a file key from the retrieved encrypted file key.
72. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 69,
wherein the registration unit further receives an input of a user identifier that identifies a user,

the encryption unit further writes the user identifier in association with a file identifier that identifies the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, as a unified file, to the memory unit, and

the encryption unit extracts the file identifier that is associated with the user identifier from the unified file, specifies the encrypted file key identified by the extracted file identifier, and generates a file key from the specified encrypted file key.

73. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 69,

wherein the encryption unit further writes encryption information in association with a file identifier that identifies the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, as a unified file, to the memory unit, the encryption information indicating that the plaintext has been encrypted, and

the encryption unit extracts the file identifier that is associated with the encryption information from the unified file specifies the encrypted file key identified by the extracted file identifier, and generates a file key from the specified encrypted file key.

74. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 62,

wherein the encryption unit further writes the encrypted key in association with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key, to the memory unit, and

the first key obtaining unit decrypts the encrypted key that is associated with the ciphertext and the encrypted file key.

75. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 74,

wherein the encryption unit further receives an input of an indication, the indication showing whether the encrypted key and the ciphertext are to be written in association with each other to the memory unit, and writes, when the indication shows that the encrypted key and the ciphertext are to be written in association

with each other, the encrypted key in association with the ciphertext, to the memory unit.

76. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 74,

wherein the registration unit writes the generated encrypted key to the key storage medium instead of to the memory unit.